

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6751

UNCLAS MEXICO 2399

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, APER

SUBJ: REPLACEMENT FOR SCIENCE OFFICER

REF: STATE 056581

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RAY FROM AMBASSADOR JOVA

1. RECOGNIZING THAT THE SELECTION OF A REPLACEMENT FOR DR. SIMONPIETRI WILL HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE OF OES ENDEAVORS IN MEXICO, I FULLY APPRECIATE YOUR DESIRE TO DELAY THAT DECISION UNTIL YOU CAN COMPLETE A REVIEW OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GOALS AND THE SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM.

2. DR. SIMONPIETRI, HAVING REACHED THAT CROSSROADS WHERE HE IS ANXIOUS TO CHANGE DIRECTIONS AND PACE, HAD WANTED TO RETIRE ON JANUARY 31. IN ACCEPTING AN FSR APPOINTMENT AND A COMMITMENT TO STAY ON THROUGH APRIL 30, HE SACRIFICED PERSONAL DESIRES TO INSURE OUR OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS. I SHOULD BE DELIGHTED IF HE WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO REMAIN WITH US EVEN LONGER. HE INFORMS ME, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS MADE PLANS AND ACCEPTED COMMITMENTS WHICH INCLINE HIM TO PREFER FINAL SEPARATION ON APRIL 30. FOR PERSONAL REASONS, HIS PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES BY THAT DATE IS ESSENTIAL.

3. SOMETIME AFTER MID-MAY, DR. SIMONPIETRI BELIEVES HIS SCHEDULE MAY OFFER SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO ALLOW HIM, IN THE ROLE OF CONSULTANT, TO RETURN TO MEXICO CITY FOR VARYING INTERVALS. HE COULD THUS LEND ASSISTANCE

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IN MANAGING THE MORE TECHNICAL AND LONGER RANGE ASPECTS

OF OUR SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVORS. WE WOULD STILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN HANDLING THE REMAINING SCIENCE PROGRAM WORKLOAD. WHILE MY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STAFFS CAN HELP IN THESE ENDEAVORS, THE VOLUME IS SUFFICIENTLY GREAT AND THE SUBJECT MATTER SUFFICIENTLY TECHNICAL TO MAKE IT ADVISABLE TO HAVE A FULL-TIME AND FULLY QUALIFIED OFFICER TO OVERSEE IT. COULD A MEMBER OF YOUR OES TEAM BE DETAILED TO MEXICO CITY TO HANDLE THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM?

4. I ALSO TRUST THAT DR. SIMONPIETRI'S PRESENCE IN MEXICO CITY CAN BE GUARANTEED FOR TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW SCIENCE ATTACHE. THERE WOULD BE NO EFFECTIVE SUBSTITUTE FOR HIM IN CONDUCTING INDOCTRINATION BRIEFINGS FOR THE NEW SCIENCE OFFICER AND IN ARRANGING INTRODUCTIONS TO MEXICAN SCIENTIFIC PERSONALITIES AND ENTRY INTO MEXICO'S SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.

5. YOUR CURRENT REVIEW OF S&T GOALS WILL NO DOUBT UNDERSCORE THE SPECIAL VALUE OF MEXICO CITY AS A LINK IN OUR WORLD-WIDE SCIENTIFIC NETWORK. IT WILL ALSO POINT UP BOTH THE URGENCY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FILLING THE JOB WITH THE RIGHT SCIENTIST. APART FROM PURE SCIENCE SOPHISTICATION OUR SCIENCE OFFICER SHOULD HAVE A SOLID SPANISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE, A FLAIR FOR CONTACT MAKING, AND ENOUGH PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION KNOW-HOW TO PUT MEXICO'S SCIENTIFIC TALENTS TO WORK IN FURTHERING OUR S&T OBJECTIVES. I WISH YOU EARLY SUCCESS IN YOUR SEARCH.

6. MEANWHILE, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOUR OFFICE WOULD EXPLORE WITH DR. SIMONPIETRI JUST WHAT ASSISTANCE HE MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER AFTER APRIL 30. HIS PLANNED CONSULTATION IN THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL OR EARLY IN MAY WILL OFFER AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT TALKS.  
JOVA

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